MARCH

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MARCH MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, March 19

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

SPEAKERS: Dr. Earl S. Herald

SUBJECT: "THE BLIND SIDESWIMMING DOLPHINS OF PAKISTAN"

In late October of last year, Dr. Herald was party chief and coordinator for a group of research and field associates whose objective was a study of the blind river dolphins known as Susu or Buhlaan *(Platanista gangetica)*. Their destination was the Indus River near the village of Sukkur which is 320 miles north of Karachi, West Pakistan.

For 11 days, the party which included Frederic L. Frye, veterinarian-surgeon; Elkan J. Morris, biologist-photographer; Robert L. Brownell, cetologist; and Dr. Herald, worked with Pakistan zoologists in procuring three of the blind rarities. The three Susu (all female) hold a flight record in that, through the good offices of Pan-American Airways, they made the 11,000 mile trip from Pakistan to the United States.

Research began immediately at Steinhart Aquarium and it was revelatory indeed. The dolphin's pattern of sideswimming is believed to be the first ever recorded for an animal. That too differed in that one swam on the left side in a clockwise direction and the other two swam on the right side in a counter-clockwise direction. Their sonar proved to be incredible in that it continued at all times and never once did any of the animals hit a tank side or any obstacle placed in the tank. These facts are but a few that were recorded by the research team.

Dr. Herald, Associate Director for Steinhart Aquarium, will illustrate his talk with both color slides and film.

One presentation only at 8:00 p.m. with seats for members on a first-come first-served basis. Because of the widespread interest in the study of dolphins and because we wish to give our membership preference, we request that you hold your guest list to a minimum — a request we are sure you will respect due to the limitations of Morrison Auditorium. If it is filled, late-comers will be invited to attend the sky show in Morrison Planetarium. The March meeting is the last at which your 1968 membership card will be honored.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"32 MOONS" will continue in the Theatre of the Stars through March 2. Beginning March 6:

"THE SPACE SHIP WE LIVE ON" will be presented through April 27. Our planet Earth has been sailing through space for billions of years and all things being equal should continue to do so for a like period in the future. Where have we been and where are we bound?

Performances daily at 2:00 with evening shows Wednesday through Sunday at 8:30. Extra matinees at 3:30 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The Planetarium is dark on Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: Adults, $1.00. Students (with student body card), armed services personnel, and children under 16, 50c.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES: A Showcase of Unsual Adaptations" continues on display in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature. Color photographs and commentary by Dr. Nathan W. Cohen of the University of California.

From the Academy Collections: "PLUMES AND PLUMAGE", pays homage to the conservationists who were able to protect some of the world's most magnificent birds. Specimens from the Department of Ornithology will continue in the Main Foyer, Science Museum, through the end of the month.

Coming in April: "BEAUTY SPOTS" — various species of spotted cats from the Department of Mammalogy.

NEWS and NOTES . . . . . .

AS OF THIS WRITING, the construction of Cowell Hall remains close to schedule and with the opening planned for the merry month of May, this is good news indeed.

The broad sweep of steps which lead to the portico is completed as you can see from the photograph above. Sandblasting of the exterior has been finished and the great glass windows are in the process of being caulked. Plastering and sheetrocking continues on all three levels. The terazzo facing has been placed on the four exits from the loggia into North American and Simson African Halls. The terazzo floor will be given its final grind by the time you read this. Lighting fixtures are being put in place.

As the day for completion nears, there's excitement all over the place.

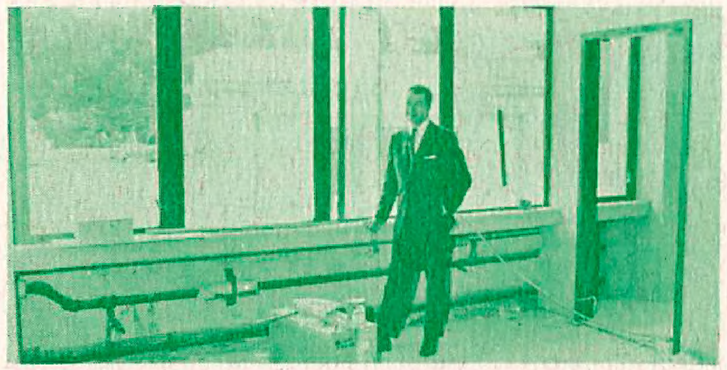
ONCE AGAIN, THROUGH THE MEDIUM of the NEWSLETTER and mainly because the over-worked office staff does not have the time for individual letters of appreciation, may we thank those thoughtful members who have recently and voluntarily boosted their category of membership or who included a little "extra" when paying their 1969 dues. This windfall of support helps the Academy enormously and our gratitude is sincere. We thank you.

WHISKERS AND BUDDY, the pair of fresh-water dolphins who are housed in Tank #43 in Steinhart Aquarium, never looked better. They now have their own filtering system which makes the water crystal clear (to coin a cliché) and as a result the playful twosome's antics are not seen through a glass darkly.

Recently installed, the sand-and-gravel, reverse-type filter forces the water from the bottom of the tank up and out to the tall cylindrical tank which has been constructed at the back of Steinhart, then back into Tank #43 again.

And when you are next visiting the aquarium, do not miss the three beautiful Philippine tube anemones in Tank #99. Delicately pastel in color, apricot tinted with 8″ long tendrils, these lovely creatures are a feast for the eye.

Meet The Staff . . .



ROBERT E. McCLURE, newly appointed business manager for the California Academy of Sciences, is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He holds a Master of Arts degree in personnel management from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Mr. McClure retired from the United States Navy with the rank of Commander after twenty three years of service which spanned 1940 to 1963.

He holds a Real Estate Broker's license, and since his retirement has been associated with the firm of Duncan, Korb and Trimble, Inc., specializing in commercial, industrial and investment real estate in the East Bay.

Mr. McClure is married and the father of one daughter. The family resides in Belvedere, Marin County. He enjoys swimming, hiking and sailing. His addition to the staff is a welcome one and it is nice to have him aboard.

The photograph was taken in Mr. McClure's unfinished office in the under-construction Cowell Hall.

RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS of the CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Proceedings

"A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains, San Mateo County, California". Elizabeth McClintock and Walter Knight in collaboration with Neil Fahy. Vol. XXXII, No. 20, November 29, 1968. .....$2.75

"The Classification of the Trichogrammatidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea). Richard L. Doutt and Gennaro Viggiani. Vol. XXXV, No. 20. November 14, 1968. .....$2.50

"Silicoflagellates from the Cretaceous, Eocene, and Miocene of California, U.S.A." York T. Mandra. Vol. XXXVI, No. 9. November 14, 1968. .....$1.00

MISCELLANEA: The American Association of Museums will hold its Annual Convention in San Francisco May 25-29. The Academy, with other local museums, will co-host the event. Headquarters will be at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel. . . . In January, Senior Scientist Robert C. Miller was named an Honored Member of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society. . . .

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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Mr. Bernard Zorrozua

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Mr. G. L. Tawney

Student Members

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Paul Sullivan
Kenneth Urrutia

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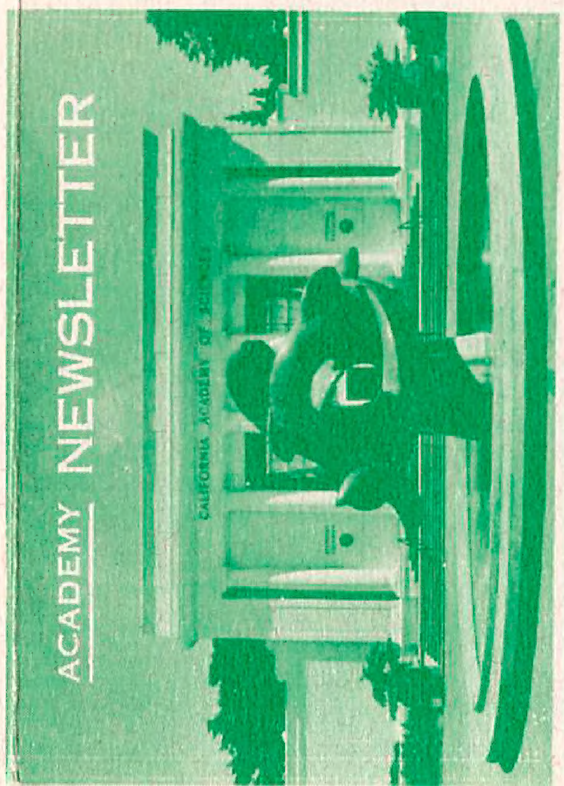

No. 351 — Published Monthly by the
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO 94118
MARCH 1969